

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 03205 100654Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 100643Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7346
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 03205

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE, GW, UR
SUBJECT: GDR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG

1. THE GDR MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE TREATMENT
TO BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE FRG. THE EVENT HAS BEEN
TREATED FACTUALLY AND THE TONE HAS BEEN POSITIVE, BUT
NOT EXCESSIVELY SO.

2. ON MAY 9 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIED AN EDITORIAL --
THE FIRST COMMENT ON THE TRIP -- WHICH WAS LONG ON
QUOTATIONS FROM BREZHNEV AND SHORT ON MUCH ELSE OF
SUBSTANCE. THE MAIN THEME WAS THAT THE VISIT
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CONSTITUTED A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING
PEACE, CURBING ARMAMENT AND PROMOTING THE PURSUIT OF
DETENTE IN EUROPE. PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS WAS PLACED
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND THE NEED TO END THE
ARMS RACE. IN TERMS OF SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS, THE
EDITORIAL DESCRIBED THE VISIT AS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
FOR PEACE IN EUROPE.

3. THE EDITORIAL ALSO STRIKES A NEGATIVE NOTE, WARNING THAT THERE ARE FORCES IN THE WEST -- INCLUDING FIRST OF ALL IN THE FRG -- WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. THESE FORCES ORGANIZE ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGNS TO PROVOKE COMPLICATIONS AND TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND TO PROMOTE THE ARMAMENTS RACE.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE CAUTIOUS TREATMENT OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT TO THE FRG AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEGATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE COMMENTARY IS PROMPTED BY A DESIRE BY THE REGIME NOT TO CREATE UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS AMONG THE GDR POPULACE THAT THE BREZHNEV VISIT WILL MEAN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN GDR-FRG RELATIONS OR GDR POLICIES. IT MAY ALSO BE A WARNING TO BONN NOT TO EXPECT THE GDR TO BE MORE CONCILIATORY. THIS ATTITUDE WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN A SPEECH TONGUE ON THE FRG, BY THE GDR DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL OBERST HEINZ KESSLER, ON MAY 8, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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